

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 13, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 56

Introduced by Assembly Members Hill and Cook

(Principal coauthor: Senator Walters)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Bonilla, Bradford, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Chesbro, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Furutani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Huber, Hueso, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mitchell, Monning, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

May 5, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 56—Relative to the American flag.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 56, as amended, Hill. Relative to the American flag.

This measure would honor the 51st anniversary of the flying of the current American flag and would encourage all Californians to celebrate the occasion with appropriate activities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, For more than two centuries, the American flag
- 2 has been a banner of hope for generation after generation of
- 3 Americans; and

1 WHEREAS, The flag is a symbol of a country that has grown
2 from 13 colonies to a united nation of 50 sovereign states; and

3 WHEREAS, Continental Congress member Francis Hopkinson
4 designed the first Stars and Stripes. The first flag of the United
5 States was authorized by Congressional Resolution on June 14,
6 1777, resolving that it be made of 13 stripes, alternating red and
7 white, and that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field,
8 representing a new constellation; and

9 WHEREAS, Since the first American flag, several congressional
10 acts and Presidential Executive orders have altered the shape,
11 design, and arrangement of the flag, and allowed for additional
12 stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new
13 state; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1794, Congress passed an act changing the
15 American flag so that it contained 15 stripes and 15 stars; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1818, President Monroe signed legislation
17 requiring that the American flag have 13 stripes and a star for each
18 state in the union. Stars for newly added states would be applied
19 to the flag on July 4 of the following year; and

20 WHEREAS, Flag makers were able to use imaginative designs
21 to accommodate new stars on the flag until 1912, when President
22 Taft issued an Executive order that established rows of stars as the
23 standard design; and

24 WHEREAS, The 48-star American flag, represented by the
25 traditional 13 stripes and six rows of eight stars, was the official
26 flag from 1912 until 1959; and

27 WHEREAS, On January 3, 1959, Alaska was formally granted
28 statehood and the 49-star American flag, represented by the
29 traditional 13 stripes and seven rows of seven stars, became the
30 official flag when it was raised over Independence Hall on July 4,
31 1959; and

32 WHEREAS, Hawaii became this country's 50th state on August
33 21, 1959, requiring that a new 50-star flag be designed as the
34 official American flag; and

35 WHEREAS, President Eisenhower unveiled the new 50-star
36 flag on August 21, 1959, at a ceremony commemorating Hawaii's
37 statehood; and

38 WHEREAS, The 50-star flag, the current Stars and Stripes,
39 became the official American flag on July 4, 1960, with a design

1 of 13 stripes and 50 stars, represented by five rows of six stars
2 alternating with four rows of five stars; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite the numerous designs of the American
4 flag, they have all stood for the United States Constitution, the
5 American way of life, our collective past achievements, and our
6 dreams for the future; and

7 WHEREAS, On June 14, 2011, the 50-star American flag will
8 celebrate its 51st anniversary as the official Stars and Stripes,
9 representing the longest period that any fixed flag design has been
10 used; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
12 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature honors the 51st
13 anniversary of the flying of the current American flag and
14 encourages all Californians to celebrate the occasion with
15 appropriate activities; and be it further

16 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly provide copies
17 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.
18

19 _____
20 **CORRECTIONS:**

21 **Heading—Principal coauthor—Line 12.**
22 _____